As his state was racked by an electricity crisis that left millions of homes without heat in Wednesday's tempest, the governor of Texas, Gov. Greg Abbott, spoke of the need for more power. The news in the capital city of Austin was how many were being told to boil water for days, as the city remains without power, and her family, like most of their neighbors, have no power or water.

As the storm moved east, Duke Energy warned its customers in North Carolina to be prepared for severe weather. "Don't touch a cord or a line," a spokeswoman said. "Don't go near a downed power line."

The efforts came despite the growing concern that green energy sources are not reliable in times of severe weather. "Green energy failure" read the headline of one article in a local newspaper. "The system is not ready," the editorial said. "We need a mix of fuels."